



Association of the United States Army

Voice for the Army—Support for the Soldier



An Investment in Soldiers and Their Families
... an Investment in America

AUSA + 107th Congress = More Good News

With the signing of the National Defense Authorization and Appropriation Acts for Fiscal Year 2002, the first session of the 107th Congress—building upon the successes of the 106th Congress—brought many AUSA goals for servicemembers and the U.S. Army closer to fruition. Each member of AUSA is a Torchbearer, carrying the message to our elected representatives and the American public. While much remains to be done, you can be proud of the fact that, as a member of AUSA, you carried the torch and contributed to the effort that yielded so many positive results. Below we list some of the major goals achieved during the last legislative session. There will be much more to do in the next session, so continue to be a Torchbearer.

AUSA and others spoke out for:

- **Closing the pay gap** between military and private sector pay by 2006 and continuing pay table reform.

Congress responded by:

Narrowing the pay gap from 13.5 percent in 1998 to about 7.3 percent for 2002 with an **average pay increase** for servicemembers of **6.9 percent**; continuing pay table reform with **targeted raises** for certain grade-and-longevity combinations; providing largest pay raise in 20 years.



Providing an average 4.6 percent pay increase.



- **Closing the pay gap** between federal civilian and private sector pay.
- Achieving **unrestricted access to quality health care** for every category of military beneficiary.

Providing statutory language prohibiting the Secretary of Defense from implementing any initiative to force military retirees to choose between military or VA health coverage as the source of their health care; increasing funding for construction of hospital and medical facilities; reducing requirements for nonavailability statements (NAS) to enhance freedom of TRICARE beneficiaries to choose civilian health care providers without prior approval from military hospital commanders; eliminating all requirements for NAS for maternity patients.



- Fully funding the Defense Health Program.
- Reducing soldiers' **out-of-pocket expenses for housing** annually and eliminating the expense entirely by 2005.

Authorizing \$18.4 billion—an **increase** of \$6 billion over last year. Includes **full funding** for TRICARE for Life (TFL).



Reducing soldiers' out-of-pocket expense for housing to 11 percent in 2002, **eliminating the expense by the year 2005**; improving Permanent Change of Station (PCS) reimbursements to include an increase in the maximum daily temporary lodging expense allowance from \$110 to \$180 per family; increasing household goods weight allowance for junior enlisted personnel; and increasing military PCS per diem rates to equal those for federal civilians by January 2003.



Well-being



AUSA and others spoke out for:

- Achieving **affordable, adequate housing** for single/unaccompanied soldiers and soldiers with families.

- Funding the **Federal Impact Aid Program** to preclude the children of military families from being disadvantaged in public schooling.

- Providing **Survivor Benefits Plan (SBP) coverage** to all beneficiaries of servicemembers who die on active duty.

- Providing **additional funding** to the Department of Defense.

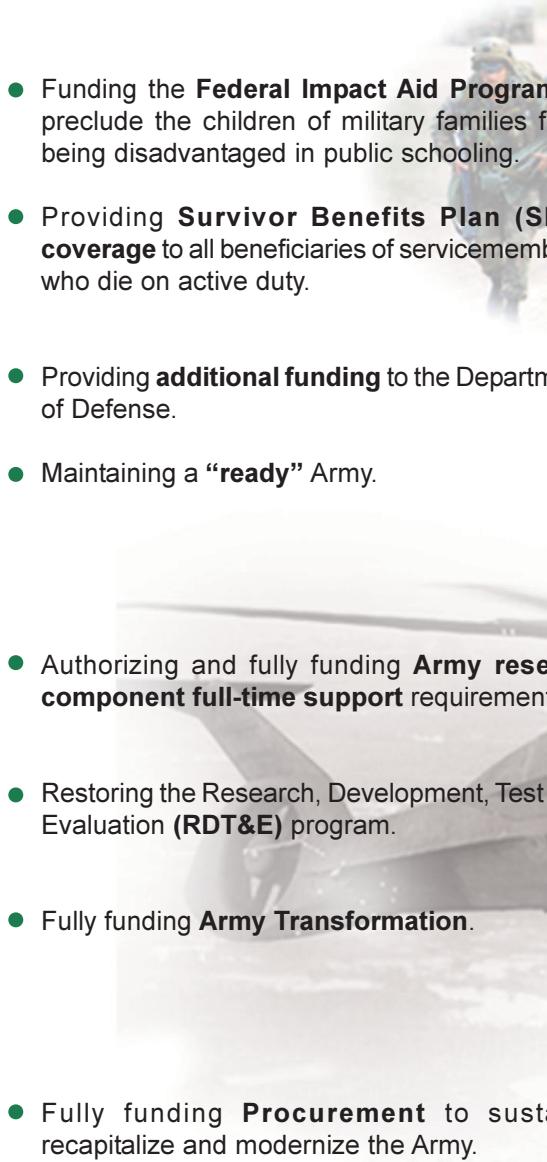
- Maintaining a “**ready**” Army.

- Authorizing and fully funding **Army reserve component full-time support** requirements.

- Restoring the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (**RDT&E**) program.

- Fully funding **Army Transformation**.

- Fully funding **Procurement** to sustain, recapitalize and modernize the Army.



Congress responded by:

Authorizing \$10.5 billion for military construction—\$529 million more than the President’s request and \$1.6 billion (18 percent) more than the current level; providing a 26 percent increase for new family housing and 48 percent more for new construction and modernization of barracks.

Reauthorizing Impact Aid for school districts with military and federally-connected children.

Authorizing SBP coverage for all beneficiaries of servicemembers who die on active duty.

Appropriating \$328 billion—6 percent more than was appropriated in FY 2001.

Providing \$23 billion for facility maintenance and base support (\$2.9 billion more than last year); \$8.7 billion for depot maintenance (\$1.2 billion more than last year); and \$7.5 billion for training accounts (\$825 million more than last year).

Authorizing an **increase of 1,022 personnel** over last year’s level in the active Guard and Reserve military technicians account.

Adding \$414 million to the Army’s RDT&E budget request, which itself was significantly higher than last year’s.

Fully funding the President’s request for Army Transformation to include Comanche, Crusader, the Future Combat System (FCS) and Interim Armored Vehicle (IAV), and upgrades to the Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV).

Providing substantial funding for several programs critical to Army readiness: to upgrade the Abrams M1A2 tank, the AH-64 Apache attack helicopter, and active Army and National Guard Bradley fighting vehicles, and to purchase additional UH-60 and UH-60Q (air ambulance) Black Hawk helicopters for the National Guard.

Take up the torch and join our crusade!

BECOME a member

STAY a member

RECRUIT a member

